(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government consider to introduce reforms for the social security of workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the sectors identified by Government to allow contract labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) to (e) In the wake of economic liberalisation, judgement of various courts and experience gathered in the administration of the Act, the Government have undertaken a review of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. However, amendment to the Act has not yet been finalised.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has recommended certain amendments to the EPF & MP Act to make social security of workers more affordable, selective and cost-effective.

Consolidation of Labour Laws

5060. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Labour has recommended consolidation of all the Labour Laws;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendation;

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Second National Commission on Labour in its Report submitted to the Government has made wide-ranging recommendations on various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security women & child labour, skill development, wages, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The Commission, among other things, have recommended consolidation of Labour Laws into a few broad groups *viz.* industrial relations, wages, social security, occupational safety and health, welfare and working conditions, etc.

(b) to (d) The Report of the Commission has been receiving most attention of the Government. Discussions/interactions have been held with each of the Central Trade Unions, Employers' Organisations and also with experts. The Report of the Commission was discussed at the 38th Session of Indian Labour

Conference held on 28-29 September 2002, a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers on 7-8 November 2002 and a Tripartite Committee Meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such initiatives are necessary for evolving a consensus on important matters relating to labour and to crystallize the views of the Government for implementation of recommendations of the Commission. Given the procedure involved, it is, however, difficult to specify any time-limit.

Remittance by workers abroad

5061. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the World Bank report released in April 2003, the annual remittances by the Indian workers abroad were around $ 10 Billion in 2001 and there is a scope to double it with some efforts;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks relating to skilled and non-skilled workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In an effort to increase the remittances made by the Indian workers working abroad and address various problems being faced by the Indian workers, the Central Government in the Ministry of Labour has already introduced Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21-11-2002 providing for establishment of Central Manpower Export Promotion Council. One of the functions of the Council will be to promote employment opportunities for emigrant workers abroad.

Accidental deaths in industries

5062. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the accidental deaths are increasing in the industries;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to minimise the same; and

(c) whether Government have taken any security measures and issued any guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed there under prescribe the safety and health provisions for the workers employed in factories. This Act is